P20596.A06

The paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2:

---In endoscopic examination, the flexible tube for an endoscope is inserted along the body cavity to a deep part such as the stomach, duodenum, small intestine, and large intestine. In order to perform the inserting operation easily and reliably, it is necessary for the flexible tube that a push-in force applied to the proximal end (side closer to the operator) of the flexible tube is fully transmitted to its distal end. However, if buckling occurs in the flexible tube, the push-in force can not be fully transmitted to the distal end because the push-in force is partially absorbed by the bent part where the buckling occurs. This means that such a flexible tube for an endoscope can not achieve reliable inserting operation. In order to avoid the occurrence of such buckling, it is necessary for the flexible tube to have sufficient flexibility so that bending is hard to occur. Further, the outer cover must be firmly attached or bonded to the tubular core since buckling is liable to occur at areas where the outer cover is peeled off from the tubular core. ---

A1

The first full paragraph on page 2:

---Furthermore, in order to perform the inserting operation reliably, it is also necessary for the flexible tube that a rotational force (that is, a twist) applied to the proximal end thereof is fully transmitted to the distal end thereof. In other words, a

A2

A